

Appl. No. 09/870,537
Amdt. dated April 7, 2005
Reply to Office Action of November 29, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 - 7, 9 - 25 and 27 - 32 remain in the application for consideration. Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the amendments made in the claims.

1. Claims 1 - 14 and 19 - 32 have been rejected under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being incomplete for omitting essential steps. In support of the rejection the examiner has stated that

The omitted steps are: a step for determining properties, including local properties, of a digital image

2. Claims 15 - 18 have been rejected under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being incomplete for omitting essential elements. In support of the rejection the examiner has stated

The omitted elements are a means for determining properties, including local properties, of a digital image.

Independent claims 1, 15 and 19 have been amended as suggested by the examiner.

Reconsideration of these grounds of rejection and withdrawal thereof are respectfully requested.

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3. Claims 6, 7, 24 and 25 have been rejected under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite.

This rejection has been overcome by the amendments made in claims 6 and 24. Claim 6 is now dependent upon claim 4, and claim 24 is now dependent upon claim 22. Claims 8 and 26 have been canceled.

Reconsideration of this ground of rejection and withdrawal thereof are respectfully requested.

In summary, the claims, as amended, comply with the requirements for patentability recited in 35 U.S.C. § 112. Reconsideration of the application and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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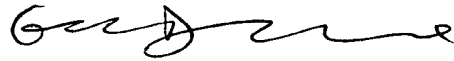
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: April 7, 2005



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